[8th December 1959

Appendix IV.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 53 asked by Sri A. Vedarathnam at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 8th December 1959, page 130 supra.]

(அ) The Basic Education week was celebrated in all the Basic Training Schools, Basic Schools and other educational institutions in the State from 20th January 1959 to 26th January 1959 by organizing lectures, entertainments, etc.

(ஆ) As regards the steps taken to promote Basic Education the Government are converting the existing elementary schools into Basic schools in batches according to a phased programme Simlarly teachers employed in such schools are being retrained in Basic Education, for a period of five months. All the teachers Training Schools are being converted into Basic training schools according to a plan and the graduate teachers employed in these schools are also given re-training in basic education for a period of five months. A post-graduate basic training college was opened at Orthanad and this is functioning from 1957–58. The Inspecting Officers of the Department were also given training in Basic Education, with a view to making them fit and competent to inspect Basic institutions. To provide an opportunity to the heads of Basic schools to discuss the day-to-day administration of Basic Education, and to find solutions for the problems they face in the course of implementing the scheme bi-monthly conferences are organized. For similar reasons, Regional Basic Education Conferences are also organized once in a year. Since it will necessarily take a long time to convert all the existing elementary schools into Basic schools, it has been decided to conduct seminars for teachers in non-basic schools under the scheme of orientation of elementary schools towards basic pattern. The above scheme is being implemented during the current year. As a first step in this direction the existing syllabus for elementary schools has been revised incorporating therein the salient aspects of basic Education, other than craft centred correlated technique of teaching. Post-Basic Education has been recognized as equivalent to S.S.L.C. and opportunity has been provided to students of post-Basic schools to get employed in public service.

As regards the action taken to obtain public support in the matter, the midday-meals scheme, the school improvement programme, the Parents Association meetings, Teachers' Association meetings, etc., are utilized to the fullest extent.